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DRAFT FGDC 2006 WORK PLAN

Subcommittee or Working Group

FGDC Standards Working Group

Background

The FGDC Standards Working Group (SWG) has been active since 1995. It serves as the standards development administrative and coordination arm of the FGDC, for which standards development activities are established and delimited by Section 4 of Executive Order 12906 and applicable parts of OMB Circular A-16 and OMB Circular A-119. The FGDC develops standards only when there are no voluntary consensus standards that meet the needs of FGDC member agencies.

The SWG standards approval process is modeled upon standards approval processes used by ISO, the International Organization for Standardization, and ANSI, the American National Standards Institute. The FGDC Standards Reference Model defines the expectations of FGDC standards, describes different types of geospatial standards, and documents the FGDC standards process. Standards Directives provide specific guidance to the FGDC Subcommittees and Working Groups and other organizations that develop standards and document the practices of the FGDC Standards Working Group.

There are 40 standards in the FGDC standards program of work, of which 21 standards have been endorsed by the FGDC. Another 19 are in various stages of development. The list of standards and the status of each is available at <http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/status/textstatus.html>.

Objectives and Goals for FY 2006

The primary goal for FY 2006 is to improve the management of FGDC standards program of work through the following objectives:

- Instigate a FGDC-wide review of FGDC standards program of work
 - Identify projects that should be discontinued
 - Identify endorsed standards that are up for 5-year maintenance review
- Manage the identification and sponsorship of voluntary consensus standards for FGDC endorsement
- Develop and get endorsement for timelines for development of working drafts and committee drafts and preparation of final review drafts.
- Revise FGDC Standards Reference Model to cover topics including (but not limited to) standards processes, classification or architecture of standards, and harmonization with external standards and the Federal Enterprise Architecture.

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- Review FGDC Standards Directive #9, Maintenance
- Work for FGDC endorsement of policy on FGDC recognition of non-Federally authored standards, followed by development and approval of implementation guidelines
- Accomplish public review of draft standards, specifically the Address Data Standard and Shoreline Data Standard (already accepted in FGDC standards program of work)
- Complete second public review of the Framework Data Standard and submission of it to the FGDC for endorsement as an NSDI standard and ANSI for approval as an American National Standard.
- Support the conversion of selected FIPS standards to ANSI/INCITS standards
- Produce handbook on standards development methodologies

Benefits or Justification/Legal Mandate

Geospatial standards activities facilitate the development, sharing, and use of geospatial data. From the beginning of the FGDC, standards have been and remain to be the key to efficient identification and exchange of geospatial data. This is recognized in the following documents which for the legal basis for the work.

OMB Circular A-016 (Revised), *Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities*, August 19, 2002.

OMB Circular A-119 (Revised), *Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in the Conformity Assessment Activities*, February 10, 1998.

Executive Order 12906, *Coordinating Geographic Data Acquisition and Access: The National Spatial Data Infrastructure*, published April 13, 1994, amended by EO 13286, March 5, 2003.

Scope of Work

The SWG scope of work includes the following:

- assisting the FGDC Coordination Group in promoting the development, maintenance, and management of NSDI related standards
- assisting the individual FGDC thematic subcommittees and other working groups in the preparation of geospatial standards
- acting on behalf of the FGDC for standards such as the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM), for which the FGDC serves as maintenance authority

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The scope of work includes approving the standards projects proposed by FGDC members, reviewing the proposed scope of each project, coordinating standards projects between the subcommittees or work groups, reviewing proposed time lines for standards development, maintaining a register of FGDC standards activities and their status, providing guidance on FGDC standards development policy and procedures, assuring consistency of FGDC standards, facilitating coordination between subcommittees with overlapping standards activities, reviewing standards for compliance with FGDC policy and procedures, reviewing standard drafts and recommending final publication as FGDC standards, and recommending to the Coordination Group or the Steering Committee any actions necessary to accomplish the standards goals of the FGDC.

Milestones, Schedule, and Budget

Projects and actions to be undertaken during the upcoming year cannot be predicted with certainty because the SWG must respond to project proposals from the FGDC members and must adjust priorities and resource allocation as directed by the FGDC Coordination Group. The list below contains known projects that are either underway or planned for work during the year. When the responsible authority is other than FGDC/SWG, the schedule is under the control of that authority. FGDC/SWG only supports and guides the work. Likewise, budget and other resource needs are the duty of that responsible authority.

1. Project: Complete development of the Framework Data Content Standard
Status: Underway
Responsible authority: FGDC/SWG
2. Project: Update FGDC Standards Reference Model
Status: Planned
Responsible authority: FGDC/SWG
3. Project: Instigate FGDC-wide review of FGDC standards program of work
Status: Planned
Responsible authority: FGDC/SWG
4. Project: Support development of North American Profile of ISO metadata standard
Status: Underway
Responsible authority: FGDC/SWG
5. Project: Update SWG web pages
Status: Underway
Responsible authority: FGDC/SWG
6. Project: Advance FGDC standards through public review stage
 - a. Address Data Standard
Status: Authorized
Responsible authority: FGDC/SWG & U.S. Census Bureau
 - b. Shoreline Data Standard
Status: Authorized

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Responsible authority: FGDC/SWG & NOAA

7. Project: Support ANSI/INCITS work to replace, revise, or develop new standards for out of date and retired FIPS PUB geographic data codes standards
 - a. Develop ANSI standard for retired FIPS PUB 9-1 Congressional Districts of the United States
Status: Planned
Responsible authority: U.S. Census Bureau
 - b. Develop ANSI replacement for ANSI 38-1988 Information Systems – Codes – Structure for the Identification of the Counties and County Equivalents of the United States and Its Outlying and Associated Areas for Information Interchange (Required due to retirement of FIPS PUB 6-4).
Status: Planned
Responsible authority: U.S. Census Bureau
 - c. Develop ANSI standard for retired FIPS PUB 8-6 Metropolitan Areas (including MAs, CMSAs, PMSAs, and NECMAs)
Status: Planned
Responsible authority: U.S. Census Bureau
 - d. Develop ANSI replacement for ANSI X3.47:1988 [R2004] Structure for the Identification of Named Populated Places, Primary County Divisions and other Entities of the U.S. and Its Outlying Areas for Information Interchange (Required due to retirement of FIPS PUB 55)
Status: Planned
Responsible authority: USGS & BGN
 - e. Develop ANSI standard for retired FIPS PUB 5-2 Codes for the Identification of the States, the District of Columbia, and the Outlying Areas of the United States and Associated Areas
Status: Planned
Responsible authority: U.S. Census Bureau
 - f. Develop ANSI standard ANSI X3.145 Information Systems – Codes – Identification of Hydrologic Units (Replaces and updates U.S. Geological Survey Circular 878-A)
Status: Planned
Responsible authority: EPA & USGS
8. Project: Develop implementation guidelines based on policy on FGDC recognition of non-Federally authored standards, upon FGDC endorsement of policy
Status: Planned
Responsible authority: FGDC/SWG
9. Project: Produce an FGDC Guide to Geospatial Standards Development
Status: Planned
Responsible authority: FGDC/SWG

Performance Indicators

- Projects advanced through stages in accordance with established policy and schedules

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- Standards information expeditiously posted to the web site or delivered via e-mail

Identification of funding sources or requests

Funding for support of standards activities is primarily derived from the sponsoring agency for the standard. Individual participants are expected to underwrite their own expenses. However, limited funding is available to standards projects on a case-by-case basis from resources managed by the FGDC Secretariat.

Points of Contact, Contact Info, and Area of Responsibility

Chair, Standards Working Group
(Ms.) Julie Binder Mantra
FGDC Standards Coordinator
Federal Geographic Data Committee

Postal or courier address:
U.S. Geological Survey
590 National Center
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, Virginia 20192

Email: jmaitra@usgs.gov
Phone: +001 703 648 4627
FAX: +001 703 648 5755
Web: fgdc.gov/standards/